

**James Craine Bronaugh to Andrew Jackson, February 8, 1822, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson.  
Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

**DR. JAMES C. BRONAUGH TO JACKSON.**

Washington, February 8, 1822.

*My D'r Sir*, I wrote you a hasty letter yesterday immediately after waiting upon the President. To day I learn he will have a cabinet council upon the subject mentioned in your letter. what the result will be is uncertain and I think not materially important, as you are willing whether your resignation is accepted or not, to answer generally to any articles of impeachment which may be preferred against you. The Speaker has recd. your letter, but has not yet laid it before the House and will wait the decision of the President. When all the documents come out the subject will be so clear, that I doubt much whether any thing will be attempted by those who made the move, for they are I believe completely sick of the subject and regret that they have by the publication of the documents placed you upon such high ground before the public.

Those who before en[ter]tained a friendly feeling towards you, from a thorough conviction of the pureness of the motives from which you acted, but considered that some of your proceedings in Florida were rather of too violent a character, have since the publication of the first part of the documents expressed the most decided approbation of your conduct and declare that you are the most astonishing man that the nation has ever produced—that you always act correctly let the situation in which you are placed be ever so difficult. Your friends are devoted—your enemies alarmed at your popularity and standing with the nation—they tremble when they see that they can not bear themselves out, with all their ingenuity, in the measures which their feelings would induce them [to] pursue towards

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you. Whitman and Archer<sup>1</sup> are the only members that have taken a decided stand against you and the latter is cooling off. Williams, Cannon and Cocke are affraid to express any opinion against you, and report says, will vote in your favor should any resolution be offered censuring your conduct. Indeed no man in Congress who is not completely under the influence of W. H. Crawford will be against you. Whitman is his devoted friend and has been exerting all his influence in the State of Maine for the last two years in his favor—he is the violent enemy of Adams—was a Federalist of the Boston stamp—was most violently opposed to the War and altho' not a member of the Hartford convention, yet was its warm supporter.

<sup>1</sup> Ezekiel Whitman, of Maine, member of the House 1809–1811, 1817–1822, and William S. Archer, of Virginia, member of the House 1820–1835, and of the Senate 1841–1847. On Dec. 11, 1821, Whitman moved a resolution calling on the President for information about Jackson's relations with Callava and with Fromentin while governor of Florida. The resolution was adopted and Monroe complied in a message, with documents, Jan. 28, 1822. Although Whitman made two efforts to get the subject ventilated in Congress, the House denied him each time, and he had to be content with an order to have the message of Jan. 28, 1822, and its documents, printed. See *Annals of Congress*, 17 Cong., 1 sess., I. 534, 558, 559, 610, 620, 826, 827, 828, 1157, 1164. See also *ibid.*, II. 2295–2569; also, the documents, in *Am. St. Pap., Misc.*, II. 799–913. Archer supported the resolution ( *Annals, ibid.*, I. 644) and later, Mar. 5, introduced in the House resolutions condemning the President and Jackson in connection with recent Florida affairs. Before Archer could air his views the House cut off his remarks by refusing to consider his resolutions. *Annals of Cong.*, 17 Cong., 1 sess., I. 1195, 1196.

At the course taken by Archer, I have been astonished. he and myself were formerly extremely intimate and I had always considered him a high minded honorable man, we have had some warm discussions on the Florida transactions and he has cooled down much since his arrival here. He declares that he is perfectly satisfied that you acted from the most pure and patriotic motives, but considers that in your imprisonment of Callava

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and banishment of the Spanish Officers you violated not only the law of nations but the constitution of the U. States. At first he was most violent in relation to your treatment of the Judge, but has now abandoned that ground and says that he is a contemptible scoundrel and had no right to issue the writ of *H. Corpus*. He pretends not to have a very high opinion of the Secy. of the Treasury but prefers him to the others named for the Presidency. He and Scott were class mates<sup>2</sup> and are upon the most intimate terms, which may have had some influence upon him. But

2 Gen. Winfield Scott; classmates at the College of William and Mary.

the two Gentlemen in his District to whom he probably owes his seat in Congress and who have always been his warmest supporters are Dr. Archer and Judge Randolph who are great admirers of you and are as much devoted to you as any men in Virginia. I am therefore at a loss to account for his opposition unless from Crawford influence.

I enclose you Crawfords report in relation to the examination of Land Offices etc. made in obedience to Cooks resolution.<sup>3</sup> It is a strange production and is made out in the true diplomatic style. It does not contain the information called for and leaves it doubtful whether Mr. Senator Thomas recd. pay or not. The fact however is that he recd. six dollars per day and I believe from the time he left this until his return. Cook has offered another resolution on the subject which will bring out the facts. His friends are much alarmed and attacked Cook most violently in the discussion upon the subject, but he sustained himself well, and the resolution passed almost unanimously. Cook deserves great credit I think for the course which he has taken in this business—he possesses fine talents and is determined to probe it to the quick. He is Son-in-law to Governor Edwards,<sup>4</sup> and your warm friend.

3 Jan. 3, 1822, Daniel P. Cook, M. C. from Illinois 1819–1835, introduced a resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury for information as to persons employed and expense incurred in examining land offices, his suspicion being that needless sums had

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been paid, especially to Senator Jesse B. Thomas of Illinois. Crawford's report is in *Am. St. Pap., Public Lands*, III. 511–514.

4 Ninian Edwards of Illinois.

All your acts in relation to the organization of the Government in Florida I understand have been approved by the President and the Scy. of State has written you to that effect. After the receipt of your letter yesterday I called at his house, but he was out. That Mr. Adams en[ter]tains the most friendly feeling towards you, I have no doubt and that he will defend you to the best of his ability I am perfectly satisfied—the more I know of him the more I am satisfied of his perfect sincerity and his devotion to the best interests of his Country. I know no man in the nation so well qualified as he is for the station which he fills. I regret that it is not in my power to give so flattering a picture of the President. the more I know of him, the more I am satisfied of his duplicity and his incompetency to fill the Office which he holds—the day is not distant when he will be universally despised by the american people or I am a false prophet. . . .

The organization of the Army is making great noise here.<sup>5</sup> I am fearful that our friend Gadsden will be placed in an unpleasant situation—the military committee now have it under consideration. Mr. Calhoun has

5 Jan. 21, 1822, the President sent to the Senate a list of nominations of officers of the army, made out in accordance with the act of Mar. 2, 1821, “to reduce and fix the military peace establishment of the United States”. Opposition was made to the confirmation of two of the higher officers, Colonel Towson and Col. James Gadsden, the latter of whom had been nominated adjutant-general of the army. The ground of objection was that they were promoted at the expense of other officers of higher rank. On Mar. 21 and again on Apr. 12 the Senate refused to confirm the nominations. Monroe withdrew them and then sent them back with an explanation and supporting papers; but the Senate remained obdurate and disposed of the nominations adversely on Apr. 29. See *Am. St. Papers, Mil.*

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*Aff.*, II. 395–414, and *Niles' Register*, XXII. 406–423. Gadsden was an intimate friend of Calhoun, whose political fortunes he supported constantly.

written them a long letter on the subject which you will see in the papers. I think he had better acknowledge that the law was violated and throw the blame where it ou't to rest, on the board of Gnl. Officers. The pruning knife will be applied by Congress to the Army. The Major Genl. or Brigs. the Inspectors and Surg: Genl. I think will go. The military committee have called for Col: Butlers letter of resignation.

The Vice President<sup>6</sup> left this yesterday. I dont think he was perfectly sober during his stay here. He was several times so drunk in the chair that he could with difficulty put the question. I understand he will never return here. . . .

<sup>6</sup> Daniel D. Tompkins.